different parts of Germany to view each and every film of the package. In fact 10 film prints which did not reach before the anaugural function were those to be gifted to the German Archives after their wide exhibition in the festival and would be permanently with the Germans and could be exhibited to the audiences even after the festival.

As regards the inaugural films, it is mentioned that there could be only one inaugural film. While the importance of any other film in the package cannot be denied, the selection of 'AGANTUK" as inaugural film was in no way unwise. The film has been subsequently selected in the Indian panorama '92- a rare distinction, which in itself puts to rest all the questions arousing doubt. It has been decided to screen ' Mahaprithivi' as closing film of the festival. All the prints were checked in India before despatch.

It is not true that there were more bureacaucrats than the film personalities attending the festival at Berlin since only one official viz., Director of Directoroate of Film Festivals who was the Commissioner of the film segment of the festival, was present on this occasion. Minister for Information and Broadcasting was invited to inaugurate, the festival. Film personalities viz., Shri Adoor Gopalakrishnan, an eminent film Director and Shri Dipankar Dey, hero of the film 'AGANTUK' also attended the inaugural function. Shri Amitabh Bachchan, Smt. Jaya Bachchan, Shri Satyajit Ray ad Ms. Mamta Shanker who initially consented to participate could not attend the festival due to personal reasons.

The package for screening during the festival was selected by the Directorate of Film Festivals, and attached office of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in consultation with the professional German coordinators under the auspices of the Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development. In fact only films, which had been selected by German professionals, were sent, by the Directorate of Film Festivals. The Directorate is the office equipped with all relevant inforation about the quality of films and the office specialises in selecting appropriate films for various festivals. It is, therefore, not correct to say that the bureaucracy had an upper hand over professioals in the selection and management of the film festival.

Biotechnology programmes for SC/ST

*306. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any biotechnology programmes/projects for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a multi disciplinary expert committee had been constituted to identify areas for employment generation and improving health and nutritional status of SC/ST population;

(d) if so, the areas identified by this Committee and its achievements; and

(e) whether any Biotechnology Project or Research and Development Centre or any other infrastructural facilities in this connection have been set up in Rajasthan: if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (e) The Department of Biotechnology, in 1990, constituted an Expert Committee with the aim of promoting special biotechnology programmes to benefit the SC/ST population. Under the auspices of this Committee, so far 3 projects have been approved in the areas of carcas utilisation, improving health conditions and development of food technologies to benefit women in particular. These would cover the regions in Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. The broad areas identified by this Committee are: leather biotechnology, sericulture, aquaculture, mariculture, vocational training, man-

power development and improvement of the nutritional status of the population. The Committee has held 3 meetings. The effort is to involve voluntary agencies and grassroot level organisations for the implementation of the programmes, particularly Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Agricultural Universities. Special effort has been made to contact many of these organisations so that they would generate projects in the identified areas which will help either in providing better employment opportunities, economic and nutrimental conditions through biotechnology. tional status or improvement in environ- No R&D Centre or any other infrastructure facility in this connection has been set up anywhere in the country including Rajasthan.

Setting up of a Chemical Plant at Tripura, Andhra Pradesh

*307. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a chemical plant at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of life savings drugs

@*308. SHRI BASUMBON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of life-saving drugs in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to tackle the problem?

@Previously Starred Question 188, Transferred from the 4th December, 1991.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) No acute shortage of any life-saving drug has come to the notice of the Government. Instances of localized shortages of some branded formulations do come to notice but in most of the cases therapeutic equivalents are available.

309. [*Transferred to 20th December*, 1991]

Development plans/schemes of Madhya Pradesh pending clearance

*310. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of development plans/schemes of Madhya Pradesh are pending clearance with the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, what are the details of these plans and since when these are pending;

(c) what are the reasons for their long pendency; and

(d) by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Shivna Flood Control Scheme for protection of Mandsaur Town estimated to cost Rs. 187.94 lakhs and Flood Protection Scheme for Shujalpur Town estimated to cost Rs. 109 lakhs are pending in the Planning Commission for approval since September 1986 and May, 1990 respectively.

(c) and (d) The decision for investment clearance for the above schemes in the Planning Commission depends upon the overall resource availability with the State Government and the sectoral priorities attached to various sectors by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the Eighth Plan (1992-97) which is yet to be finalised.